TL 1822-14

HIS EXECELLENCY FIDEL V. RAMOS
President
Republic of the Philippines

WE, the Filipino and foreign participants of the Asia-Pacific Conference on East Timor (APCET) being held at the University of the Philippines, coming from academic and legal institutions, people's organizations and broad NGO coalitions, representing a wide spectrum of interests and persuasions, concerned with the plight of the Maubere people and speaking with one voice not as separate peoples but as members of the community of humankind, seek your attention to the following:

WHEREAS, the Philippine Government has banned foreign participants to the Asia-Pacific Conference on East Timor from entering the Philippines and participating in the conference;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Government has in fact deported ten foreign nationals who intended to attend the conference and has also canceled the visas of ten others who are already in the country;

WHEREAS, at issue in this conference is no less than the right of the peoples of the world in general and the Filipino people in particular to hear the woes of the Maubere people;

WHEREAS, far from posing a threat to the integrity of the Philippines in pursuing its international relations, the holding of the conference on Philippine soil will further bolster its democratic tradition and its image as a peace-loving nation before the eyes of the international community;

THEREFORE, we urge your Excellency to reconsider the ban on foreign participants to the conference and the cancellation of visas of those already in the country and allow them to participate in the conference.

APPROVED on the first day of June in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-four at Malcolm Hall, University of the Philippines, Quezon City, Philippines.

RENATO CONSTANTINO JR.
Chairperson
Philippine Convenors
APCET

MR. SHAMBU CHOPRA
President
International Platform of
Jurists for East Timor (IPJET)
Member
International Convenors
APCET

MR. AUGUSTO MICLAT JR.
Coordinator
APCET